

U of A community urged to take precautions during flu season

Folio Staff

Coinciding with the start of the winter term is the heart of this year's flu season.

The University Health Centre wants to remind everyone to practise proper health techniques and is offering the following tips from Alberta Health and Wellness on how to stay healthy this winter:

- If ill, stay home from work or school and avoid public places.
- One of the best ways to prevent influenza is to get the influenza vaccine every year. Flu shots are available on a walk-in basis to staff and students at the University Health Centre located on the second floor of the Students' Union Building from 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday.
- Clean hands frequently, especially after coughing, sneezing or blowing your nose. Wash your hands with soap and water or use an alcohol-based hand sanitizer (min. 62 per cent alcohol-based recommended).

• Cough or sneeze into your sleeve rather than your hand.

• Do not touch your eyes, nose or mouth after shaking hands or touching hard surfaces like counters and door handles or other surfaces that may contain influenza and other viruses.

Moreover, if you think you have the flu, Alberta Health and Wellness says practice self-care and stay home from work or school until you are able to resume daily activities, whichever is shorter.

The UHC also wants to remind everyone that Norovirus is present in the community at the present time. Symptoms include vomiting, diarrhea and stomach cramps.

The Norovirus is easily spread. The main source of the virus is stool (feces) and vomit from infected persons. The virus is most often spread from person-to-person on unwashed hands. The virus can also be spread by food, water or ice that has been handled by a sick person. Vomiting may spread the virus through the air.

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University of Alberta physicist Darren Grant snaps a photo of himself in Antarctica where his low-energy neutrino-detection system was installed.

U of A physicist first Canadian on project in Antarctica

Suzette Chan

There are ice sculptures and ice hotels, and now there is a particle detector made of ice. IceCube is the world's largest neutrino observatory and scientists expect that, among other mysteries, it will yield data that may illuminate dark matter.

The IceCube detector, located at the U.S. National Science Foundation's Amundsen-Scott South Pole Station, was completed Dec. 18 with the installation of a final string of optical sensors into a one cubic-kilometre section of ice that is both the detector's medium and vessel.

The final deployed sensor string of the observatory is part of the low-energy neutrino detection system, called DeepCore, designed by a team led by University of Alberta physicist Darren Grant. Grant established Canada's first institutional presence in the IceCube collaboration, which includes more than 30 universities and research centres from around the world, including its lead institution, the University of Wisconsin.

A neutrino is an electrically neutral

particle that travels close to the speed of light. It is of scientific interest because it can make an exceptional probe for typically concealed environments.

"The ice at the South Pole is an ideal detector medium for neutrinos," explains Grant, a professor who joined the U of A's Department of Physics in 2010.

"At the deepest depths the ice is incredibly pure. Light produced when a neutrino interacts in the deep ice can travel large distances (over 100 metres) without being scattered or absorbed. This means you can build a very large optical detector for the universe's highest energy neutrinos."

The US\$279 million experiment included the design and construction of a special hot-water drill that bored 86 holes into the ice to depths of 1,450 and 2,450 metres. A string of 60 sensors was lowered into each hole to make up the main IceCube and DeepCore

detectors. Four additional sensors sit on top of the ice above each string, forming the IceTop array. The IceTop array, combined with the IceCube and DeepCore detectors, constitute the IceCube Observatory, whose sensors record neutrino interactions. Grant says IceCube is designed to operate for 15 to 20 years, after which it will be decommissioned.

"To use a phrase, [the U of A really is] at the tip of the iceberg for the scientific potential this detector makes possible."

Darren Grant

again, and they are considered part of the ice. All other pieces of the detector, from the drill which deployed it, to the electronics and computers housed in the IceCube surface laboratory, will ultimately be removed from the continent when their role there is complete."

Having joined the experiment as a

Penn State researcher in 2007, Grant, a Harrow, Ont. native has, participated in all phases of the experiment, including designing, building, testing and installing the DeepCore modules. The latter task gave him the opportunity to work in the Antarctic.

While the completion of the detector is a milestone for the experiment, IceCube actually started taking data as it was being built.

"So far, we have used the data from the partially constructed detector to place world-leading limits in searches for dark matter and astrophysical neutrino sources," Grant says. "But the real discovery potential of this observatory is in the full cubic-kilometre detector, which is now complete."

"I am most excited that at the University of Alberta we will be leading a number of the dark matter searches with the full detector and be the first in the world to begin stringent testing of some of the popular theoretical models for this most important physics problem. To use a phrase, for which I probably won't be forgiven, we really are now at the tip of the iceberg for the scientific potential this detector makes possible." ■

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folio

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Royal Society of Canada flexes its expertise

Michael Brown

The Royal Society of Canada has taken up the challenge of navigating through the issues surrounding some of Canada's most pressing questions, using a portion of its University of Alberta membership on the voyage.

In October of 2009, the Royal Society of Canada—the senior national academy of distinguished Canadian scholars, artists and scientists—announced the commissioning of four expert panels, one of which was chaired by Steve Hruddy, U of A professor emeritus of analytical and environmental toxicology, to look into the environmental and health impacts of Canada's oilsands industry.

Among those chosen for Hruddy's seven-person panel were U of A royal society members André Plourde, professor of economics; Zhenghe Xu, professor in the Faculty of Engineering and Canada Research Chair in Mineral Processing; and Anne Naeth, professor of ecology, land reclamation, revegetation and restoration ecology.

In the past, the RSC has responded to requests from governments or other agencies who wanted to sponsor expert panels that maintained a process that would prevent sponsors from exercising influence over those panels. This time around, however, the RSC commissioned the panels using strictly their own resources.

In 2009 the RSC committee on expert panels decided the society itself should sponsor a new series of expert

panels, deciding on four issues that Hruddy says, "Canadians should have an interest in, and where Canadians could benefit from having an independent perspective that is not trying to support any particular stakeholder view."

He added that the RSC's decision to go at it alone was particularly important in the case of the oilsands review.

"All the information out there is put out by one stakeholder or another," said Hruddy. "Obviously government has one perspective, industry has another and the environmental groups have perspectives and they are all trying to convince you that you should believe them."

“The thing about these panels is we set out only to inform Canadians; we aren't trying to convince Canadians of anything.”

Steve Hruddy

In December 2010, the panel released a 438-page report that found fault with the media and environmental groups' portrayal of the oilsands, but saved most of its criticism for the industry-funded body responsible for monitoring oilsands, as well as the provincial and federal governments. The report also concluded that reclamation in Canada's oilsands is not keeping pace with development, which could leave

the public vulnerable to major financial burdens in years to come. However, the report also dismissed claims concerning the destructive nature of oilsands development and its negative impact on health.

Plourde says he thinks the report was well received, thanks to the standing of the RSC and the realization that none of the researchers "had an axe to grind."

"It was really an attempt to try to get to a state of what we know and what we don't know about these things," said Plourde. "That part of the exercise was really understood, which was really gratifying."

Beside the close look at oilsands, the RSC took on debates surrounding end-of-life decision making, marine biodiversity and challenges posed by climate change, and early childhood development.

"The thing about these panels is we set out only to inform Canadians; we aren't trying to convince Canadians of anything. Panelists volunteer their time and these reports are done as a public service."

For Plourde, the interesting part of it was the breadth of backgrounds that were brought into help resolve the issue.

"It allowed us to do reviews of all kinds of different things given that we had a lot of expertise in a wide range of areas," he said. "The report cuts through a wide swath of literature and evidence to come to some indication of the kinds of things we know a lot about, the things we know a lot less about and places where we noticed discrepancies."

"It was a really useful exercise." ■

U of A accepting students for rural physical-therapy program in Camrose

Laurie Wang

There is a shortage of physical therapists in Alberta's rural communities, and the University of Alberta's Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine has found a way to meet the need.

The faculty and the Department of Physical Therapy have received funding from Alberta Advanced Education and Technology to enrol another cohort into the master of science physical therapy (MSc PT) rural satellite program at the U of A's Augustana Campus in Camrose. The physical therapy program is currently accepting applications for fall 2011, and 10 students will be admitted to the program on the Augustana campus. Augustana students "attend" most classes via real-time, high-definition video conferencing. Along with the Edmonton instructors connected via technology from Corbett Hall on the university's North Campus, the Augustana students have a local instructor/teaching assistant for each course. Students from both cohorts can see and interact with each other simply by talking to the large television screens in classrooms and laboratories and cameras at both sites allow for zooming in for a close view of hands-on skill techniques. Ten students started the MSc PT program in September 2010 and have embraced the format.

"I would definitely recommend [this style of instruction.] Using the synchronized distance learning technology every day to attend classes doesn't feel any different and we receive the same excellent clinical teaching and attention from our instructors," says Alaina Risi, a first-year physical-therapy student in the Camrose program.

Risi saw the need for physical therapists when she worked with the Augustana Vikings and helped in their training. "They had to drive to all the way to Wetaskiwin to receive physiotherapy," she said.

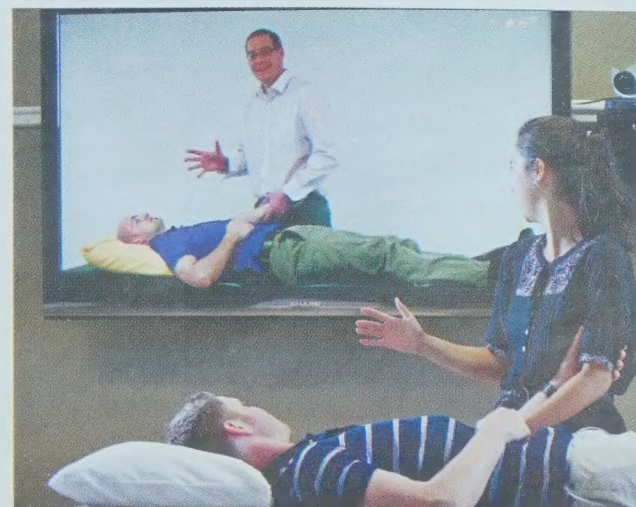
Risi says being in Camrose has helped her see how physical therapy in rural Alberta works, and she's surrounded by the very people she could

be helping. "When I talk to people about the physical therapy program in Camrose, they're very excited. They can't wait for us to open up a student clinic here. I'm excited for the clinical experience in a rural community."

According to Statistics Canada, as of 2009, there were 1,722 practicing physical therapists in Alberta and only 187 work in rural or remote areas, with 90.2 per cent of physical therapists working in urban centres, while only 9.8 per cent work in rural communities.

"We know there is a need for more rehabilitation professionals in rural Alberta. We launched this pilot project in partnership with former dean Roger Epp from Augustana Campus this past fall and we are pleased to know we are continuing the program for a second year," says Martin Ferguson-Pell, dean of the Faculty of Rehabilitation Medicine.

The vision to start the pilot program began with Ferguson-Pell, Epp, former dean of Rehabilitation Medicine Al Cook and chair of physical therapy Bob Haennel. The IT teams in Rehab Med, Augustana and the U of A's Academic Information and Communications Technology group helped make the unique distance learning technology possible. ■



Another 10 Students will be admitted in 2011 to the satellite MScPT program at Augustana Campus in Camrose.

Agreement seeks improved research on tailings ponds

Richard Cairney

An agreement between the world's largest oilsands companies to share their knowledge and research into tailings management is an "unprecedented" measure that will speed environmental remediation, according to the firms.

Seven oilsands companies held a press conference at the University of Alberta Faculty of Engineering in December to announce they will share their knowledge and technologies used to manage tailings—a byproduct of the bitumen extraction process. This partnership will help the companies comply with the Government of Alberta-issued Directive 74, which requires oilsands operators to cut tailings in half by 2013.

This partnership acknowledges that "work done together can perhaps move faster than when done independently," said David Lynch, the dean of engineering. "The Faculty of Engineering has been doing research on tailings for 30 or 40 years—it is a major issue that is very technically challenging," Lynch added. "This agreement enables our researchers to go to an entirely new level with industry so that the best research can be developed collaboratively and subjected to the full international standards of scientific review."

David Sego, a professor in the Department of Civil and Environmental Engineering and scientific director of the Oil Sands Tailings Research Facility, called the new arrangement "fantastic." Sego hosted the second international conference on oilsands tailings, also in December, which drew researchers from around the world to Edmonton, where up-to-date research on tailings was delivered.

He is excited about the agreement because, he says, current existing "field data" the oilsands companies have collected could enhance the impact of research conducted by graduate students who are studying ways to manage tailings.

"The body of knowledge and the innovation those students bring to the table will be improved. The researchers have to rise to the challenge." ■

Flu precautions

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To prevent the spread of the virus, the university has increased the frequency of the cleaning of commonly touched surfaces. Soap and paper will be more widely available in Lister Centre and laundry facilities will now be free for all residents to enable frequent washing as necessary. It should be noted that a person can be stricken with the Norovirus more than once, so always exercise the same precautions.

In the case of examinations, university policy now encourages students to stay home and get better, with a declaration being completed at the corresponding faculty office/registrar's office after they are feeling better.

For more information go to <http://www.uhc.ualberta.ca>. ■

The arts lend big voice to science of the small

Michael Davies-Venn

The University of Alberta has established a new Scholar in Residence for Arts Research in Nanotechnology. The program, initiated by the U of A's Office of the Vice-President (Research), is designed to encourage arts research in the field of nanotechnology by providing an opportunity for scholars in the arts to conduct research with colleagues in nanotechnology.

Establishing the Scholar in Residence for Arts Research in Nanotechnology is the latest initiative to foster interdisciplinary research among scholars in the social sciences, humanities, engineering, creative arts and sciences. Lorne Babiuk, U of A vice-president (research), says the program furthers the university's commitment to interdisciplinary research. "The aim is to broaden the impact of the National Institute for Nanotechnology across the

full spectrum of disciplines on campus, into areas that aren't normally a part of the nano-scientific process," he said.

George Pavlich, U of A associate vice-president (research), says the Scholar in Residence for Arts Research in Nanotechnology is ground-breaking. "With the establishment of this scholar in residence position, we believe a unique intersection and collaboration between science and the arts will result, with important implications for both," said Pavlich.



Heather Graves

Pavlich says the arts scholar in residence program, based at NINT, will help sharpen the understanding and integration of nanotechnology into the broader community, as well as promote the work being done by nano-scientists.

Nils Petersen, NINT's director general, says the scholar in residence program adds value to the institute. "By having colleagues from the arts join us in telling our story, perhaps in non-traditional ways,

we hope more Canadians will come to understand the potential of nanotechnology."

Pavlich agrees. "If, simultaneous with the discovery of some leading technological advance, we have a concurrent assessment of its social, political, economic, creative or legal impact, then we are likely to have an integrated initiative whose overall effects are more comprehensively understood."

Heather Graves, a U of A English and film studies researcher, will be the first to hold this novel scholar in residence position. She says she will examine how researchers in nanotechnology negotiate the ambiguities of language in their research.

"This is an opportunity to watch the discourse of the new field of nanotechnology emerge and the language usage negotiated among the experts involved," said Graves. "One of the things we hope that nanotechnologists will get out of our examination is a vocabulary that they can use to talk about what they do."

The scholar in residence program is a three-year pilot program, funded by Alberta Innovates Technology Futures. ■

Engineer joins pharmacists to improve drug delivery

Richard Cairney

Mechanical engineering professor Warren Finlay has taken on a collaborative project to improve drug delivery for lung-cancer patients.

Working with Faculty of Pharmacy and Pharmaceutical Sciences researcher Raimar Lobenberg and Wilson Roa at the Cross Cancer Institute, Finlay helped devise a way to manufacture an inhalable powder that could effectively disperse chemotherapy drugs into a patient's lungs.

The team encapsulated chemotherapy drugs into nanoparticles that could be inhaled by patients with lung cancer. To keep the nanoparticles apart, they first freeze the particles in tiny ice-carrier particles before removing the ice to make a powder.

The challenge then was to produce a powder that would not only make it into a patient's lungs, but also disperse the drugs effectively.

"The idea was to add in effervescent material inside the carrier particles that produces carbon dioxide gas. So when the particle lands in the lungs, it releases carbon dioxide gas and the nanoparticles are released over a much bigger region. They are dispersed beyond the landing site, which prevents the released nanoparticles from getting all stuck together."

Tests have showed that the inhalable dry powder was more effective than using a solution and IV injection of drug-bound nanoparticles. ■

Renewable resources department knows nature

Bev Betkowski

No one knows nature like the folks in the University of Alberta's Department of Renewable Resources.

Over the past decade or so, 12 academics from the department have written an astounding 102 nature guides, most issued by a single Canadian book company, Lone Pine Publishing, as well as some from the U of A Press.

The colourful, user-friendly books tell about fish, birds and animals, as well as trees and plants from of the United States, Canada, Mexico and Ecuador. Every one of the field guides is written by an U of A alumnus, professor or staffer.

"The sheer volume of nature books produced by the students and professors in the department speaks to their incredible talent, creativity and knowledge about the natural world," said chair John Spence, who is also a professor of renewable resources.

"The success of so many authors from one department is impressive, and what's great is, they're providing broad public access to information about the creatures that we share the world with, and supporting recreational pursuits."

The talent and knowledge of the U of A writers translates well into books, said Shane Kennedy, head of Lone Pine Publishing. The company has offices in Edmonton and in Washington State, and has published hundreds of publications since it started in 1980.

"The people who have graduated from the (renewable resources) department and then write for Lone Pine are natural communicators. Other graduates from the program may go onto professional scientific careers as lab researchers or government scientists. But the people who write for us have an innate talent for writing and educating," Kennedy added.

Ian Sheldon graduated from the U of A in 1999 with a master's degree in wildlands management and, over

the past 15 years, has illustrated or written 27 of the books exploring everything from the seashores of British Columbia to the animal tracks of Florida and Alberta.

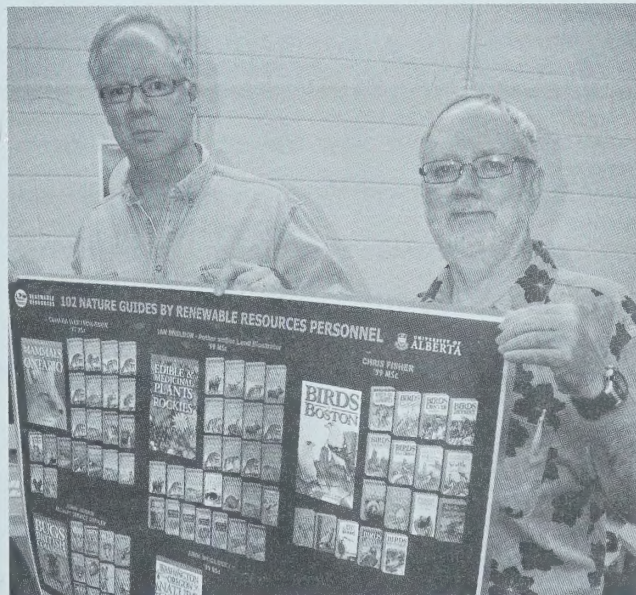
His motivation for the work is in sharing his love of the world's natural wonders. "It's education, it's reaching out to people. As a student of renewable resources, a lot of the focus for me was on ecotourism and wildlife management, and the writing I do now ties into that,"

Sheldon said.

The books, which take anywhere from one to seven years to write, depending on what other projects Sheldon has on the go, provide instant appeal and adventure, especially for children, he added.

"One of my favorite books is *Bugs of Alberta*. One lady told me she and her six-year-old son read one bug bedtime story a night—I just loved that. That boy, you never know, could end up becoming someone who is passionate about nature and changing our future in terms of conservation issues."

Spence added, "This sort of work is an excellent example of how careers, for many of us, are inseparable from life. These guides reflect a naturalist's approach to career and life." ■

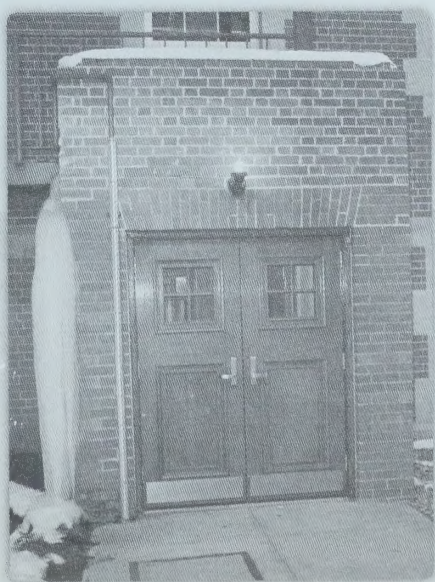


John Acorn, U of A staffer and guide author, and John Spence, chair of the Department of Renewable Resources, show a display of the 102 books written by 12 authors from the department.

Are You a Winner?

Congratulations to Denise Young, whose name was drawn as part of folio's Dec. 17 "Are You a Winner?" contest. Young correctly identified the photo in question as being the pentecost window in the St Joseph's College Chapel. For her efforts, Young has won a collection of stories by the U of A's Rudy Wiebe. The book spans 50 years of Wiebe's literary works that define and refine prairie literature.

Up for grabs this week is a now-vintage, white "I wanted to buy one, but thought I would win one in folio" U of A Centenary t-shirts. To win, simply email your correct answer to folio@exr.ualberta.ca by noon on Friday, Jan. 21, and you will be entered into the draw.



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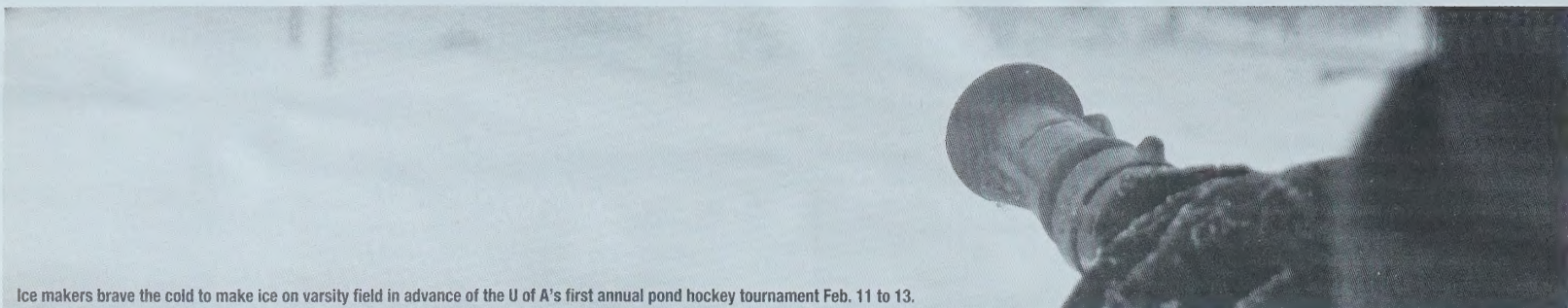
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Information Evening

February 23, 2011
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Education South Building
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www.childstudycentre.ualberta.ca
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Ice makers brave the cold to make ice on varsity field in advance of the U of A's first annual pond hockey tournament Feb. 11 to 13.

U of A's finance and administration looks only to enable

Michael Brown

In return for providing a teaching and learning environment rich with novel and new experiences, the biggest thing the University of Alberta asks of its students, faculty and staff is to dream big.

The Office of the Vice-President (Finance and Administration), leaders in finance, administration and human resources services, has the role of enabling those big dreams.

"Any organization needs the kinds of things that are supplied out of my portfolio, so I have to do it in a way that supports the academic side of the institution as it needs to be supported," said Phyllis Clark, vice-president (finance and administration). "In a lot of ways, it is doing the things that are required to be done without getting in the way of the main mission's critical aspects."

Within a vibrant and supportive

learning environment, Clark says her portfolio exists to enable discovery and to disseminate and apply new knowledge through teaching and learning, research and creative activity, community involvement and partnerships—either financially or through administration.



Phyllis Clark

"It depends on the time of year, but the university's budget and the controls that go with it are always a major challenge," said Clark. "Financial statements are a big challenge every year, but so are human resources. People are our most important resource, so you have to make sure the human-resource things are done correctly. This means the proper design of pension and benefits for all staff, job evaluations, churning out the payroll and ensuring good non-academic labour relations."

The finance and administration office also oversees investments, safe disclosure and human rights, policy, strategic analysis, supply management,

the Office of the Vice-Provost (Information Technology)—the administrative information systems (the provost oversees academic IT) and risk-management services.

"Risk management is a big chunk. It includes things like insurance, labs, doing health and safety checks on labs, the enterprise-wide risk management system and campus protection services," said Clark.

On top of that, finance and administration supplies the data and analysis for reports to government or for rankings data; it does the university's purchasing, runs the competitions for getting vendors, and then makes sure the campus

delivery system runs smoothly.

While it may seem like a lot, once the system is in place, Clark says good people are the key to her office's successes.

"In my opinion, it is a whole lot easier to run things on the administrative side than it is on the non-administrative side," said Clark. "We have many things that are keep-it-going items in the sense that year-after-year you have to produce, such as the financial statements. There are challenges but it is not as if it is a completely new system that has to be introduced every year."

"My job is to make sure the people who report to me have the direction

University 101

that enables them to do their job, the resources to do their job, and that I represent them in the various forums where they need representation.

Clark says that the keys to providing a good vision for how to make sure her office continues to be innovative and efficient starts with her people.

"The best thing I can do to make my office an asset to the university is hire good people, make sure the team works well together, have a vision of where the area should be in two and five years time, be kind, communicate well and laugh." ■

Business students begin new year with sweep of weekend competitions

Folio Staff

It was a winning weekend for two teams from the University of Alberta's School of Business. On Jan. 8 and 9 the Alberta MBA team walked away with the prestigious Queen's Cup, the top prize in the National MBA games, held this year at York University. The team, which took first place in the academic component, also nabbed the peer-voted Spirit

Award and a second place trophy in the athletics division.

Meanwhile, in Winnipeg, a group of five students took first place in the 29th annual Manitoba International Marketing Competition, beating out 11 other teams from Europe, Africa and North America. The team was awarded the Walter Good Cup for solid performances in all aspects of the competition, including a presentation to a mixed corporate/academic

judging panel. Aside from the cup, the students also share a \$4,000 prize.

"What a great beginning to the year and a great follow-up to our win in the Financial Executive International Best in Class competition," said Dean Mike Percy. "The engagement of our students in competitions, international study tours and exchanges, and in our community is part of an incredible culture here at the school. Engagement brings excellence." ■

2011-2012 Killam Annual Professorships

Applications are invited for the 2011-2012 Killam Annual Professorships. All regular, continuing, full-time academic faculty members who are not on leave during 2011-2012 are eligible to apply. Deans, Department Chairs and other senior University administrators with personnel responsibilities shall not normally be eligible for Killam Annual Professorships. Associate Deans and Associate Department Chairs are eligible providing they do not have personnel responsibilities. Up to eight Killam Annual Professors will be selected by a subcommittee of the Killam Trusts Committee; no more than two Professorships shall be awarded to staff members in any one faculty in any given year. Each Killam Annual Professor shall be presented with a \$3,500 prize and a commemorative plaque. The duties of Killam Annual Professors shall not be changed from those that they regularly perform as academic staff members.

The primary criterion for selection shall be a record of outstanding scholarship and teaching over three or more years as evidenced by any or all of research publications, creative activities, presented papers, supervision of graduate students, and courses taught. The secondary criterion shall be a record of substantial contributions to the community outside the University, above and beyond what is usually expected of a professor, as evidenced by community involvement normally directly linked to the applicant's University responsibilities and activities. However, other forms of community involvement will be considered, especially, but not exclusively, where the applicant's discipline does not readily lend itself to making community contributions, and also where the university's reputation is clearly enhanced by the applicant's contributions.

Awards are tenable for twelve months commencing July 1, 2011. The completed application must be received at the Office of the Vice-President (Research), 1-20 University Hall, by 4:30 p.m., Friday, Feb. 18, 2011. The awardees shall be announced by early May, and they will be formally recognized at the Killam Luncheon in the fall of 2011.

Applications and further details are available on the home page of the Vice-President (Research) at <http://www.research.ualberta.ca>.

Please contact Annette Kujda, administrative officer, Office of the Vice-President (Research) at extension 2-8342 or email annette.kujda@ualberta.ca if you have any questions.

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Board decisions from December meeting

Michael Brown

At their December meeting, the University of Alberta's Board of Governors approved several fee increases for the 2011-2012, as well as changes to the Lister Hall Meal Plan Program.

On a recommendation of the Board Finance and Property Committee, the board approved a general fee increase effective Sept. 1, which includes a .35 per cent increase to both tuition and differential fees.

The increase means arts and science undergraduate students taking a full slate of classes, for example, will see the cost of next academic year's studies increase

\$18. The board also approved a separate differential-fee increase of .35 per cent for the bachelor of laws, master's of business administration and doctor of medicine programs.

The board also approved annual increases for three years to each level of the Lister Hall Meal Plan Program to align directly with the Consumer Price Index for food in the Alberta region. Next year students on the first three tiers of the meal plan will see an increase of 7.7 per cent, while the fourth tier will see no increase.

Then the price will increase by 2.5 per cent across all tiers in each of the next two years to keep pace with forecasted increases to the CPI. The proposal will

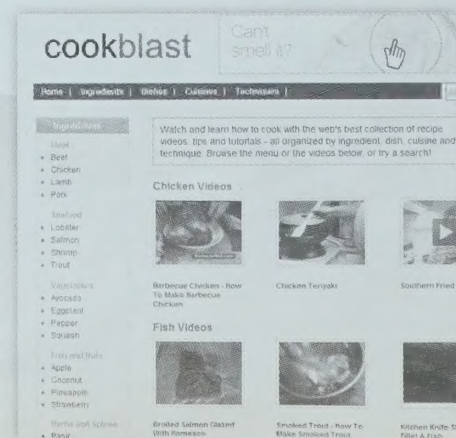
also see Ancillary Services phase out the lowest-cost plan by 2013-2014, thus offering just three levels.

The board also approved a 2011-2012 rate increase of between .8 to two per cent for rent of U of A residences. For example, those students who rent a single room in Lister Hall for eight months will see a one per cent rent increase, which equates to \$5 per month.

Finally, the board approved a new Shared Credential Policy to regulate the process through which faculties and departments of the U of A will approach establishing shared-credential programs, where the name of the U of A is cited on the degree parchment awarded by another institution or vice versa. ■

surf city

Starting the new year planning to eat better is one thing, planning to cook better is another. Cookblast (<http://cookblast.com/>) takes the average cookbook a step further. Like other foodie sites, Cookblast offers up recipes, instructions and suggestions sorted by regional cuisine, ingredients needed and ease of preparation, but it also offers video instructions for your cooking education. They also feature tips and tricks (you can search by technique), allowing you to perfect your cooking craft to a greater degree. From canning to roasting, it's like having your very own cooking channel.



PhD helps power hybrid sports car



Electrical engineering PhD student Jeff Ewanchuk has played an important role in the development of the Future Vehicle Technologies' car, the eVaro.

Richard Cairney

When the Discovery Channel broadcast a new documentary entitled *X Cars* Jan. 6, some of the work by electrical engineering PhD student Jeff Ewanchuk was in the spotlight.

Ewanchuk, who is conducting leading-edge research on power conversion, provided indispensable knowledge to Vancouver-based Future Vehicle Technologies. With Ewanchuk's help, the company produced one of the most efficient vehicles in the X-Car competition—an international contest sponsored by the X-Prize Foundation.

"My research focus is power electronics in high-speed electric motors and the conversion of DC to AC power used to drive motors found, for example, in electric vehicles," said Ewanchuk, who earned his degree in electrical engineering at the U of A in 2006 and has returned to work on his PhD. "In electric vehicles a car has a DC battery and the motors are AC systems."

Ewanchuk stepped in to help the company a year ago, as it struggled with power conversion issues. Ewanchuk travelled to Vancouver and rewrote the "drive" side of the car's software for the first road test of the X-Car competition.

But new challenges arose because the vehicle had been tuned to operate on a rolling chassis dynamometer—the automotive equivalent of a treadmill for runners. In road tests, the vehicle was overheating.

To fine-tune the system, Ewanchuk and an FTV team member drove around Vancouver in the futuristic-looking car, stopping from time to time to rewrite software.

"We spent a few days on weekends driving around Vancouver and stopping and working on our laptops and we'd draw huge crowds of people," Ewanchuk says.

"We found out that if you try to go to a fast-food drive-through, you have to figure out how the driver is going to pass food back to the passenger."

Jeff Ewanchuk

"We'd be driving down the freeway and people would be following us, and taking video of us with their cell phones. The first time I drove by myself, the police decided to follow me—I think they were confused about whether it was a legal car so they were running the plate."

Built with three wheels to reduce drag and optimize its aerodynamic tear-drop shape, the company's car, called the eVaro, drives unlike any other car, Ewanchuk says.

"It is very, very nimble because it is like a three-wheel motorcycle; it's

very quick and handles very sharp," he said. "It feels strange to drive it, at first. There is no shifting because there is no transmission—you just feel constant acceleration."

A hybrid sports car with a gas tank that tops up at 2.2 U.S. gallons, the eVaro's energy efficiency averages at the equivalent of more than 200 miles per gallon in combined city and highway driving—with a top speed of 200 km/h.

Interestingly, during the on-road sessions Ewanchuk and his FVT partner discovered a design challenge unrelated to power conversion but nonetheless important: the two seats in the car are configured in tandem—one in front of the other—and covered by a glass canopy.

"We found out that if you try to go to a fast-food drive-through, you have to figure out how the driver is going to pass food back to the passenger," said Ewanchuk.

Future Vehicle Technologies president George Parker says his vehicle is the first fuel efficient designed commuter car. And he says the company has benefitted tremendously from Ewanchuk's expertise.

"Jeff has turned out to be kind of a miracle worker for us—he is a guy who has expertise in areas we don't have. When he is finished and has his degrees we want to hire him full time," said Parker. "He is not available, as far as we are concerned, to anybody else. I don't think there is anybody out there who can touch what he does."

Being there for an APPLE every day

Andrea Lauder

A passion for health and a dedication to teaching and mentoring. These are things that Marg Schwartz brings to her work and her life each and every day.

As project manager with the Alberta Project Promoting Active Living & Healthy Eating in Schools (APPLE Schools) at the School of Public Health at the University of Alberta, Schwartz works with facilitators in each school in which the program operates.

Schwartz's passion is among the reasons why she recently received the North American Society Fellowship Award from Physical and Health Education Canada. She was recognized as one of Canada's leading health and physical education professionals for her commitment to ensuring that Canadian children and youth live physically active and healthy lives.

"It is so gratifying to know that a lifespan of my work has been recognized by this national body," said the U of A alumna.

APPLE Schools develops health-promoting school environments where it is easy for children to make healthy choices, improve eating habits and physical activity levels. This contributes to reducing the risk for chronic disease

by decreasing obesity. Schwartz works with facilitators operating in schools, developing programs and activities to help the entire school community eat nutritious foods, stay active and learn about healthy choices.

Schwartz remembers the first time she heard Paul Veugelers, professor and APPLE Schools unit director, talk about the impact of physical activity on obesity levels in schoolchildren. "I was drawn in by hearing him measure what I 'did' at my job each day. I was excited and interested to work on a project like this. He has given validation to the work done in schools."

The APPLE Schools program is growing, recently adding four more schools in Fort McMurray. It is a point of pride for Schwartz to know that she has a hand in the training and maintenance of this program.

"I see them now using the same techniques I trained them with as they turn around and train the next group of school facilitators," said Schwartz. "I get passionate about bringing together people with great minds."

When asked what keeps her motivated each day, Schwartz says, "I love the energy that working with people gives me. At the end of the day, some of my closest lifetime friends are those that I have worked with."



Marg Schwartz

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Alberta's ants get a recount two by two

Michael Brown

Identifying the nest of ants that just made off with your picnic just became exponentially more onerous.

James Glasier, a master's student in the Department of Renewable Resources, has put his fascination with ants to good use by more than doubling the number of known species that call this province home.

In the 1960s, University of Alberta concluded that Alberta was home to 40 species of ants. Since Glasier started his research two years ago, he has found 85 species.

"Before this work, it was thought Alberta had a lack of ant diversity and now, with close to 90 species discovered, [the province] actually has relatively high diversity for being so northerly," said Glasier.

Glasier says the majority of his work has been done around Edmonton, specifically in the Sand Hills

near Opal, Bruderheim and Redwater, where he is doing research on ant habitat associations and the effects of fire on ants.

"However, I have collected ants from across the province and have had lots of help from my colleagues in getting specimens," said Glasier. "Ants are pretty adaptable and can be found in a surprisingly diverse type of locations. One of the most unique locations was be my friend's apartment, which was on the 27th floor."

Glasier says he decided to work on ant biodiversity in Alberta because ants are important organisms to provincial ecosystems. He explains they turn over the soil as much as worms and are major contributors to breaking down wood. Ants are important predators of insects; they are important food sources for many vertebrates like bears and woodpeckers, and they are important in dispersing seeds of small herbaceous

plants such as violets.

"With such a significant and diverse role in Alberta's ecosystems, it was surprising to find the last diversity study of ants in our province was in 1966 by Professor Janet Sharplin of the University of Alberta, who had found 40 species," he said. "When I had learned that I decided that a good project would be to expand on that work."

Glasier, who would like to do a PhD, says he suspects there are more species of ants out there and he is intent on finding them.

"I'm sure a few more species are living out there just waiting to be found," he said, adding there are so many stones still unturned.

"The first time I came across the arboreal carpenter ant, I was up about 33 feet in a trehouse and looked under a tarp and there, under the tarp, was an entire colony of this ant. Completely unexpected, but quite neat." ■



Manica hunteri ant.

New species of flying reptile identified on B.C. coast

Brian Murphy

Persistence has paid off for a University of Alberta paleontology researcher who, after months of pondering the origins of a fossilized jaw bone, finally identified it as a new species of pterosaur, a flying reptile that lived 70 million years ago.

Victoria Arbour says she was stumped when the small piece of jaw bone was first pulled from a fossil storage cabinet in the U of A's paleontology department.

"It could have been from a dinosaur, a fish or a marine reptile," she said. Arbour, a PhD student in paleontology, says the first clue to the fossil's identity came after she compared it to known species of pterosaurs. "I found a published paper describing the teeth of a previously discovered pterosaur and ours was very close," said Arbour.

"The teeth of our fossil were small and set close together," she said.

"They reminded me of piranha teeth, designed for pecking away at meat." That led Arbour to believe her new species, named *Gwawinapterus beardi*, was a scavenger of the late Cretaceous period. "It had a wingspan of about three metres and patrolled the sky and set down to feed on the leftover kills made by predator dinosaurs of the time such as Albertosaurus."

The fossil is not only a new species; it's also the first pterosaur of any kind to be found in British Columbia. It was found on Hornby Island, off the coast of Vancouver Island. Arbour says that 70 million years ago, when that pterosaur existed, Hornby Island was nowhere near its present location.

"In the late Cretaceous period, the B.C. coastal islands were about 2,500 kilometres to the south and part of what is now mainland California," said Arbour.

Arbour's research was published online earlier this month in the *Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences*. ■



Vicki Arbour holds a fossilized jaw bone from a *Gwawinapterus beardi*, which may have resembled the artist's rendition in the background.

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Logan McIntosh
Undergraduate Student & DoCS Co-founder



Physicist searching to understand the mysterious ways of the Crab Nebula

Brian Murphy

The discovery that a celestial light, thought for the last 30 years to be unwavering in its intensity—but is in fact prone to mysterious bursts of energy—has a University of Alberta researcher scratching his head. Although physics professor Craig Heinke co-wrote a paper on the strange behaviour of the Crab Nebula, he's not sure why it began emitting huge flares. "Last fall, two space-telescope satellites, the Italian AGILE and NASA's Fermi, detected uncharacteristic surges of gamma rays (high-energy light) coming from the Crab Nebula."

Heinke says the flares lasted just a few days, energizing particles to levels rarely

seen since the first millionth of a second after the Big Bang. "We're seeing particles accelerated to energies 100 times larger than the Large Hadron Collider, to speeds just below the speed of light," said Heinke. The Large Hadron Collider is the particle accelerator near Geneva that researchers from around the world are using to find out about the universe's origins and the nature of matter.

The Crab Nebula, so called because an astronomer thought it resembled the pincers of a crab, is the remnants of a dead star that became a cloud of gas and high-speed particles. The supernova explosion that created it was seen in the

night sky by Chinese astronomers in 1054. The Crab Nebula is 6,000 light years from Earth, but still bright enough in the visible light spectrum that even amateur astronomers can see it. However, Heinke says evidence of flaring in the nebula only shows up on equipment that measures light at the very high-energy level of gamma rays.

"It was the Crab Nebula's stability at those high levels of light that encouraged astronomers to use it as a reference point to calibrate their gamma-ray and X-ray telescopes," said Heinke.

Now that its stability is in question, Heinke says researchers will focus more attention on the nebula using an international team of satellites. Heinke says that while nebulae have been linked to the formation of new stars, planets and even galaxies, the Crab Nebula is probably still millions of years away from that kind of transformation.

"The most interesting thing about the flaring from the Crab Nebula is the particle acceleration it produces," said Heinke. "Billions of dollars were spent to artificially create near-light speed particle acceleration at the LHC, and now we can observe it happening naturally in outer space."

Heinke's co-written research was published online Jan. 6 in *Science*. ■

This is a combined NASA satellite telescope image of the Crab Nebula. (Image Credit: NASA/CXC/F. Seward, NASA/ESA/ASU/J. Hester, NASA/JPL/U. Minn./R. Gehrsz.)

Playful book ponders Alberta's soul

Geoff McMaster

If nothing else, Alberta is a province mired in contradiction.

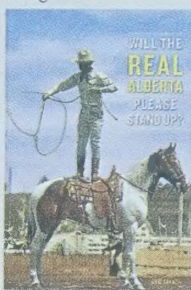
Some would argue that the province is filled with conservative rednecks, yet there is political tradition steeped in liberal ideology. Citizens champion an individualistic frontier spirit, but strong and fruitful community bonds thrive. Strangely enough, says local writer and filmmaker Geo Takach, it doesn't seem the least bit unnatural to live with these uneasy tensions; they are perhaps precisely what defines the Alberta soul.

"In other parts of Canada, these could be critical and even absurd contradictions. Out here, they fit right in," writes Takach in his latest release from University of Alberta Press, *Will the Real Alberta Please Stand Up?* In this playful and informative treatise, the three-time graduate of the U of A ponders how a province that revels in its four-wheel-drive "macho rep" also "rocks the cradle of feminism," producing "the first double-x-chromosome chief justice and big-city police chief in Canada, the first female magistrate, the first female MLAs and the second female cabinet minister in the British Empire, as well as some reasonably outrageous drag queens."

Or, as he writes in a long list of incongruous cultural juxtapositions, "where else could a capital city host a

summer festival that's tawdry, anachronistic and dubiously appropriate historically (Klondike Days, recently re-branded as "Capital Ex" in a concession to modernity, if not to grandly failed marriages or maybe even laxatives), along with some of the most progressive theatre this side of the Great White Way?"

Now is the time for some honest reflection on the paradox that is Wild



Rose Country, argues Takach, to root out self-perceptions born of stereotypes and get to the heart of the real Alberta experience. It seems that, for all of the attention Alberta has been getting of late, we may be the least understood province, "a riddle wrapped in a saucy donair—classically beef

but not always—and still largely distant to most outsiders."

Raised in Quebec by parents who had fled then-communist Hungary, he describes driving into Edmonton for the first time as a teenager, "through refinery row and fearing that my own notions of Alberta as an oil-rigger's wasteland—pre-installed at the plant back in central Canada—were correct."

But as he came of age, he found himself growing fiercely proud of his adoptive province, celebrating it with a convert's zeal throughout his multifaceted career. The fruits of those reflections are offered with the humorist's ironic touch in *Will the Real Alberta Please Stand Up?* ■



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Students take shot at resetting Canada's foundation

Michael Brown

teaching & learning, learning & teaching

University of Alberta Law students are getting a chance to test the theory that hindsight is 20/20 by heading back in time to rewrite the blueprints for the formation of Canada.

Law professors James Muir and Peter Carvers have introduced an innovative course in Canadian constitutional history and law, entitled "The Making of the Canadian Constitution," using teaching methods based on game and role-playing theory.

The course, created with funding from the U of A's Teaching and Learning Enhancement Fund, will see students negotiate and litigate their own drafts of the British North America Act of 1867 and the Constitution Act of 1982.

Muir, who is cross-appointed to the Department of History and Classics, says the first half of the re-enactment will see students assume the role of different parties representing the regional interests and social forces engaged in key moments of struggle, negotiation and compromise over the creation of the BNA Act.

"The students don't have a completely free hand to write what they want," said Muir. "They have to agree, and they have to be true to the past."

The second half of the course will fast forward to 1982 where the students will have to negotiate patriation of the constitution and the Charter

of Rights and Freedoms.

"I'm expecting that the students will [develop] an intimate knowledge of the actual constitution itself because I don't think they spend enough time reading it," said Muir. "When we teach constitutional law we are very concerned with the application of the constitution, but we also want students to get a sense of why the constitution says what it does and looks the way it does."

"This shift in the way in which the students relate to the material will help them get a different understanding of the law and the way it works, but not just with constitutional law; there will be a more general sense of how the law works."

Muir and Carver got the idea for the course from U.S. designers, who created similar role-playing games based on the American constitution. The pair plans to attend upcoming constitutional role-play conferences to present their course and find ways of improving it. They have also invited Christopher Moore, a governor-general award winner and an expert author in confederation, to help students get a better sense of the personalities involved.

"The game play itself is designed to get students thinking, in a variety of ways, about different positions, how to understand different positions and how to negotiate with other groups, so there are a lot of different

contemporary skills," he said.

Muir says they also have plans to integrate the course with a 2012 conference being organized by the U of A's Constitutional Centre to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the signing of the Constitution Act. He says this will give students the opportunity to pick the brains of Canadian constitution architects to better understand the process involved in drawing up such a monumental document.

"Teaching is a primary goal of the university, regardless of the importance of research," said Muir. "I think it is important that the university help develop these innovations in teaching so we can be better at that primary goal." ■



Peter Carver (left) and James Muir look over Canada's Charter of Rights and Freedoms.

Lab tech grows roots in renewable resources

Michael Brown

Pak Chow's prowess in the lab has been described as impeccable, and his talent as a laboratory technician within the Department of Renewable Resources has earned him second-author honours on numerous refereed journal articles.

His skills have even led to open invitations to pursue a graduate degree, but the recent University of Alberta Support Staff Recognition Award winner has found contentment helping others see the forest for the trees.

"It is a fun thing to train the grad students because they come from different backgrounds, and they have different lab skills," said Chow. "My job is to help students get used to the lab environment as some of them have never been in the lab before. Eventually, if they want to do analysis or research, they can always find something here, which I'm glad I can help them find."

Since coming to the U of A in 1995, Chow's main duty has been to perform chemical analysis on plant and tree material, looking at such things as carbohydrates, lipids and nutrient content.

Prior to his life as an environmental scientist, Chow was a civil engineer from Hong Kong. He came to Canada in 1991 to ply his craft, but the recession left him largely without work in his new home.

"After two years of doing odd jobs, I decided to retool myself and go back

to school, aiming to do environmental science, which can be combined with my engineering background. I found that the environmental sciences program at NAIT was very practical, and was available in the Biological Sciences diploma, and so I went."

After graduation, Chow joined the U of A working in the Plant Pathology Lab under Peter Blenis, professor emeritus in the Department of Renewable Resources. After working five years with plants and fungi, Chow was transferred within the department to plant physiology, working under Vic Lieffers and Simon Landhauser.

Over the years, Chow has worked with five different research groups in the department and has become a key player in making each of these labs run in a smooth, efficient and friendly manner. He is responsible for training of students in proper lab protocols and meeting regulations in dealing with dangerous products and procedures. Chow's current position is to maintain the laboratories at the Centre of Enhanced Management.

Chow's colleagues speak highly of his precision in the lab but save their greatest praise for his humanity.

"Pak is a very skilled, careful and systematic technician, but the things that make Pak extra special are his personal characteristics that stimulate professional but co-operative behaviour among the students and workers in these labs," wrote one of the people who

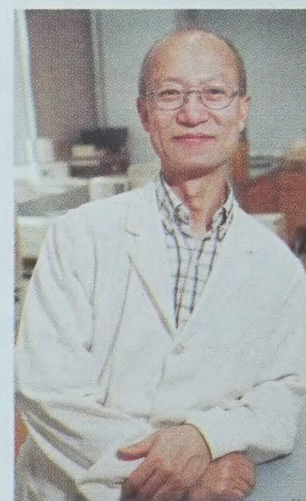
staff spotlight

nominated Pak for the award. "Pak is always friendly, smiling and keeps a positive manner."

"Pak has the unusual ability to demand high standards and safety from all involved but still make the labs an enjoyable place to work."

The nominator added, "In all the years that we have worked with Pak, there has never been an unkind word said about him."

"Pak is an amazing ambassador for the department." ■



Pak Chow

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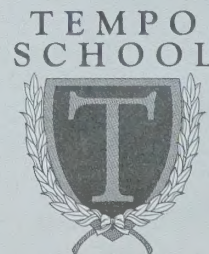
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Parents play a big part in helping kids enjoy sport

Jane Hurly

The way parents behave when their children are involved in sport can make or break the experience for the young athletes, says doctoral student Camilla Knight, who grew up playing competitive tennis in England. She wants to better understand what parents need to be thinking about and doing to be involved in their child's sport in a positive way.

"Parents are crucial to youth sport," says Knight, "so I am looking at developing an international theory around parental involvement in tennis. One reason I'm interested in tennis is that tennis is an individual sport, so the emphasis on parental involvement is often greater than in team sports. Tennis also opened many doors for me and I'd like it to be a positive experience for all players."

While her own experience as a competitive athlete

was positive, with parents who were supportive, she witnessed other parents behaving inappropriately, shouting or even hitting their child for losing a match. "Many kids' experiences were positive, but others' bordered on child abuse," says Knight, who won a Dorothy J. Killam Memorial Graduate Prize for outstanding scholarship this year.

Knight says there are a number of reasons some parents misbehave. "Youth sport has become a way for children to show their parents they are successful, and for parents to show others that they're successful parents because they have these children who are good athletes. Some parents may be living through their children, or perhaps the parents weren't successful athletes but want their children to be," explains Knight.

Educating parents about appropriate behaviours around youth sport is key to Knight's parental involvement theory. She says, "It's important for parents

and athletes to determine what their goals are for being involved in a sport. If parents are focused on a gold medal and the athlete is OK with that, that's fine. But when the parents and the athlete differ in what they want—for example, the parent is focused on winning, and the child likes sport because of the friends they meet—these differences can lead to issues."

It's a constant education process, through coaches and organizers of youth sport who have opportunities to talk to parents and reinforce supportive behaviours, rather than a one-off parent education session, which Knight feels is helpful but superficial.

"I think that educating and taking the time to help parents understand the consequences of their behaviours is critical. My goal is to take the voice of the athletes to the parents and facilitate the discussion between the parents and athletes," she says, "because parents are more likely to respond to the voices of athletes than the voices of experts." ■

Med students ship equipment to Africa

Quinn Phillips

On a visit to one of Africa's top public hospitals, third-year medical student Jia Hu was shocked to see it didn't have the bare-minimum supplies like tourniquets or basic lab tests.

"That really opened my eyes," said Hu. "You read about it in the books, you know there's shortages, but you go there to the best public hospital in the country and you see it and you just think, 'oh man, this is unfortunate.'"

He decided when he got home from Zambia, the region where the hospital is located, that it was time to help make a change. He followed the lead of students at Dalhousie University in Nova Scotia and last year started the Medical Equipment Recovery Initiative. They collect unused medical equipment and ship it to a hospital and a clinic in Uganda, which was selected by a group in Montreal doing research in the area.

"I've been told that overseas some people even go as far as reusing needles for syringes just because they don't have a lot," said Hu. "Over here we have this stuff in abundance, so I think it's good to be able to send some stuff over."

So far the group has sent more than 400 pounds of equipment including catheters, syringes, tubing and drapes, "the essentials we take for granted," says Hu. The hope is that eventually they'll be able to send supplies overseas on a monthly basis.

"Doing something like this makes you acutely aware of just how bad things are in some places overseas," said Hu. ■

Campus Rec figures pond hockey is the best game you can name

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta's tradition of hockey greatness is about to take another step forward as Campus

Recreation has announced its first annual pond hockey tournament, to be played Feb. 11 to 13.

"We are really looking forward to celebrating that outdoor backyard-rink feeling that many of us grew up

with," said Brian Gratrix, program co-ordinator with Campus Rec.

The tournament, which will coincide with CBC's Hockey Day in Canada celebrations, will see 64 teams made up of students, staff and alumni, face off in four-on-four tournament played in rinks currently being constructed on varsity field.

Entry fee is \$100 per team with a roster maximum set at five. There will be a both men's and women's division, which will feature a seeding round followed by a round robin. Currently, organizers say games will consist of two 12-minute periods, with a shovel before each game.

There is a minimum equipment requirement of a helmet, stick and skates, but participants

are encouraged to wear shin pads and elbow pads as well.

The rinks are approximately 60 feet by 120 feet with a centre ice line. After each goal, the scoring team will be required to return to its side of half. Nets are six feet wide and six inches high.

There is an off-ice official but no referee. "There is no goaltending, but games are self-officiated so the spirit of the game should dictate over having to call penalties," said Gratrix. "This is certainly one of the highlight participating teams will remember and want to be a part of for years to come," he said.

Registration begins Jan. 17, with an early-bird prize deadline of Jan. 26. Registration will close of Feb. 2. ■



Michael Davies-Yenn

Creation of outdoor rinks on varsity field has begun in anticipation of university's first annual pond hockey tournament to be played Feb. 11 to 13.

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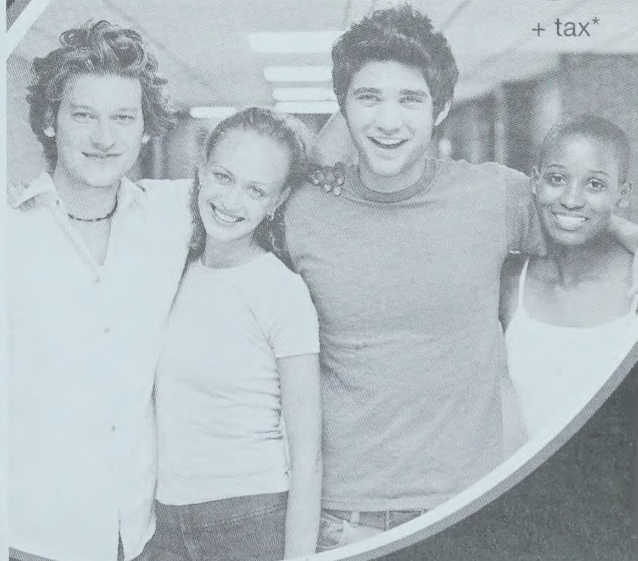
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news [shorts]

folio presents a sample of some of the research stories that recently appeared on ExpressNews, the U of A's online news source, and other campus news sources. To read more, go to www.expressnews.ualberta.ca.

Festival of Teaching invites interactive celebrations

The fourth annual Festival of Teaching will be held March 7–10 and will include a keynote event, panel discussions, wandering scholars and banners. The Festival of Teaching is also adding a new activity this year, whereby all teaching staff, including graduate student instructors, may volunteer or nominate a colleague to showcase and share their expertise, excellence and approaches by opening one of their classes to two or more other instructors to attend as observers. Students are also invited to submit a nomination. Please visit the Festival of Teaching website at www.provost.ualberta.ca/FestivalofTeaching2011.aspx for more information.

Deadline for nominations for University Teaching Awards announced

Before Feb. 25, nominees for one of several awards must be received by General Facilities Council. Nominations may be submitted by current or past students, faculty members, deans or chairs for the University Cup, while submissions for the Distinguished University Professor Award are usually initiated by a nominator, typically a dean. The Rutherford, William Hardy Alexander, Provost's Early Achievement and the Teaching Unit Award can be nominated by any staff or students in any faculty that teaches undergraduate students. Nominations must go through faculties, though, because each faculty has a limit on the number of nominations that can be submitted.

For information on eligibility criteria, UAPPOL policies that pertain to the awards and advice on how to prepare their nominations contact Bobbi Schiestel, Faculty Awards Facilitator, Academic Awards and Ceremonies Office at 492-2644 or via email at bobbischiestel@ualberta.ca.

Review committee struck for VP search

Lorne Babiuk's first term as vice-president (research) ends on June 30, 2012. He has advised President Indira Samarasekera that he would like to stand for a second term of office. In consultation with the chair of the board of governors, Brian Heidecker, Samarasekera has asked that an advisory review committee for vice-president (research) be struck in accordance with GFC and board-approved procedures as set out in UAPPOL.

The composition of the above-noted review committee includes three members of the full-time and continuing part-time faculty, none of whom hold administrative positions. Staff who are on administrative or study leave are not eligible to serve on the review committee.

The meeting of the review committee has been scheduled for a full day on Feb. 14 in Room 3-15, University Hall. Committee members must be able to attend this meeting and should note there may be additional meetings. Written nominations for the review committee must be supported by the signatures of five members of the full-time and/or part-time academic staff, not including the nominee, and should be submitted in hard copy to the secretary to General Faculties Council, Garry Bodnar, 3-20 University Hall. Nominations must be received by Friday, Jan. 21 at (noon). If you have any questions about eligibility to serve or to nominate, please call Garry Bodnar at 780-492-4733.

U of A researcher helps pinpoint how to reduce anxiety

Bill Colmers, a professor of pharmacology, and an associate in Chicago discovered that blocking a process in nerve cells reduces anxiety, meaning a new drug could now be developed to better treat anxiety disorders.

For years, researchers have understood what processes in the brain are responsible for high and low anxiety levels, but no one had been able to identify what triggers this process.

"No one else has discovered this," said Colmers. "Others have identified the behaviour, but now we know why this process happens and how it works. Now we know why certain chemical messengers behave the way they do."

Study shows overweight children outside Edmonton heavier than city counterparts

Geoff Ball and Kathryn Ambler, researchers in the Department of Pediatrics and at the Alberta Health Services' Pediatric Centre for Weight and Health, have found that children referred for weight management who live outside the metropolitan Edmonton region are more overweight than Edmonton kids.

The researchers looked at 555 physician referrals to the centre between April 2005 and April 2009. About one in five lived outside the Edmonton metro area and almost half (48 per cent) of all the children referred to the clinic had BMIs over the 99th percentile.

On average, kids who lived outside the Edmonton area were 31 pounds heavier and had a BMI four units higher than Edmonton-area kids, suggesting an increased health risk for those outside the metro region. The average age of children in the study was 12.

The researchers noted that obesity-related health care delivered to children and their families outside metropolitan centres may need to be tweaked to ensure they are getting the care they need.

"Families outside of metro areas often have fewer local resources to help them manage health risks that tend to accompany obesity," says Ball, "and a one-size-fits-all approach won't work." ■

Exhibit designed with Sense and Sustainability

Bev Betkowski

As a guy, Wade Brown isn't really into necklaces made of buttons, but he still found it interesting to hold one in his hand and feel its chunkiness.

Being blind, Brown doesn't often visit museums, but the opportunity to handle the quirky piece of jewelry and other artifacts at a University of Alberta exhibit recently was a rarity for him, given the glassed-in nature of most galleries and other display spaces.

"I really appreciate exhibits like this—where I can find them," he said.

Brown, a U of A alumnus who is applying to law school, took time to visit Sense and Sustainability, a hands-on exhibit running until March 31 in the lobby of the Human Ecology Building.

Featuring repurposed, previously loved objects including toys made of tin scraps, a vase made of paper and a purse crafted from an old inner tube, the exhibit invites all comers to handle each artifact, exploring different bumps, ridges and textures. The treasures were drawn partly from the Department of Human Ecology's clothing and textiles collection, and partly borrowed from private collections.

Sense and Sustainability was designed by two graduate students and an intern studying material culture in the home and community, to celebrate double themes of sustainability and accessibility, said Megan Strickfaden, an assistant professor in the Department of Human Ecology.

"The idea is to provoke deeper thought towards finding the beauty in things that are impermanent, imperfect and incomplete," Strickfaden said.

"Other cultures such as Africa and Japan routinely reuse materials for other everyday objects. Our consumer society can also discard our addiction to the 'new' and learn to appreciate the character of materials and how they can be integrated into the design of new items."

Because of its touchable nature, it made sense to create an accessible exhibit for people who are blind, have visual impairments or are deaf, "while challenging all audiences to engage with artifacts beyond the visual," Strickfaden added.

Exhibits like Sense and Sustainability give depth to his awareness of the surrounding world, Brown noted. "When you're blind, you don't know what things look like. Stuff that is taken for granted by the rest of society is not part of the blind experience. But after an exhibit like this, now I can picture a person wearing a button necklace."

The exhibit also boasts an audio-visual component, with a video that walks viewers through the artifacts. For visitor Susan Kolbowicz, the subtitles in the video made a big differ-



Wade Brown at the Sense and Sensability exhibit in the Ecology Building.

ence in her enjoyment.

Kolbowicz has Usher Syndrome, which has left her hearing impaired and blind, with the exception of tunnel vision in one eye. "To have subtitles is huge, for me. Otherwise, I would have just seen the pictures. I would not have heard the details of the exhibit. It means I'm not half-guessing at what's being presented to me and I can form an opinion about the artifacts."

A theatre-goer and lover of the arts, Kolbowicz wishes there were more subtitled and real-time captioned cultural events happening. "It can be frustrating, because you aren't able to take in the whole experience and appreciate it fully."

She also liked the exhibit's theme of recycling, and "making do with what you have. I try to live by that and it's nice to see some focus on that idea."

Strickfaden plans to put up more exhibits that explore and invite accessibility.

"Opening up exhibits to touch encourages people to engage with all their senses, which takes them back to the original intent of the objects—to be held, touched, turned in the hand, felt close to the face and smelled. That's why questioning exhibit formats—by making them more accessible—is important to all audiences." ■

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The university remembers a 'good friend' and patron of the arts

Michael Brown

The University of Alberta is mourning the passing of one of its

most ardent supporters and a true patron of the fine arts. Sheila Edwards, member of the U of A senate from 1988 to 1994, died Dec. 21 after a long fight with mantle-cell lymphoma. She was 75.

Edwards, the granddaughter of John James Bowlen, Alberta's lieutenant governor from 1950–1959, and wife of Jim Edwards, member of parliament for the Edmonton-South/Edmonton-Southwest riding from 1984–1993 and former chair of the U of A board of governors



Sheila Edwards

from 2002–2006, carved out her own place in Alberta's history through her benevolence.

"I will remember Sheila for her quick wit, wisdom and warmth," said U of A President Indira Samarasekera. "Never at a loss for words, Sheila had an uncanny perception of people and politics. Her love for her family was always evident, and she cared deeply about the university and Alberta. She will be missed."

Brian Heidecker, current U of A board chair and long-time Edwards family friend, who also served with Edwards on the university's Senate, says he will remember his friend as "a sparkplug of energy around the senate and around the whole university."

"I always found her to be a delight to work with, full of fun and good ideas. Sheila enjoyed being with people and loved to debate," said Heidecker. "She could argue both sides of an issue quite eloquently, so it was great sport to see who would end up on what side of a debate—always with good intent and a lot of good humour."

He added, "I just really enjoyed Sheila as a person and, of course, we shared the common passion of supporting the university and all that it means to society."

After spending the first 15 years of her life in Calgary, Edwards and her family moved to Edmonton. She at-

tended the U of A, where she received a bachelor of science degree in chemistry in 1957 before beginning service as Alberta's first environmental chemist.

A champion of the arts in Alberta for her entire life, Edwards—whose mother, Mary Bowlen Mooney, was awarded a honorary doctor of laws degree from the U of A in 1969 and had Studio Theatre's Distinguished Visiting Artist

designation named after her—had a hand in nurturing such Edmonton institutions as the Citadel Theatre, the Edmonton Symphony Orchestra and the Alberta Foundation for the Arts, serving on its board from

1992–1995. In 2005, Edwards was awarded the Alberta Centennial Medal for her lifelong contributions to the community.

Edwards was also a strong supporter of the U of A's Faculty of Arts, particularly Studio Theatre, helping with fundraising for the Timms Centre and endowing a scholarship awarded annually to a second-year student enrolled in the in the bachelor of fine arts program in acting.

"She had a passion for seeing young people trying new things and growing before her eyes," said Jan Selman, past chair of the U of A's Department of Drama, of Edwards' support of Studio Theatre that goes back three decades. "She gave us remarkable support in so many ways, including giving great advice. She was just so helpful in forwarding the drama department's mission. This is a real loss." ■

"She had a passion for seeing young people trying new things and growing before her eyes."

Jan Selman

talks & events

Talks & Events listings do not accept submissions via fax, mail, e-mail or phone. Please enter events you'd like to appear in folio and on ExpressNews at: www.uofaweb.ualberta.ca/events/submit.cfm. A more comprehensive list of events is available online at www.events.ualberta.ca. Deadline: noon one week prior to publication. Entries will be edited for style and length.

Jan. 14

Golden Bears and Panda's Volleyball vs University of Regina Cougars. Pandas to follow. 6:30 p.m. Main Gym. For a full schedule of U of A athletics go to www.bears.ualberta.ca

Jan. 17 to 20

Involvement Week 2011. Warm up to your community this January and learn about the different volunteer and involvement opportunities available to you on and around campus. This week-long event will feature a kick-off concert, a four day Involvement Fair, a three-part seminar series and an Evening of Involvement with Edmonton City Councillor Don Iveson. For more information go to www.su.ualberta.ca/services_and_businesses/services/student_groups/sgsevents/involve

Jan. 19

Cardiovascular risk in children: How should we measure it? Katerina Maximova, professor in the Department of Public Health Sciences, will be presenting. Noon–1 p.m. 1-040 (Oborowsky Degner Seminar Hall) Li Ka Shing Centre for Health Research Innovation.

Jan. 20

Shadowy Character, Live Wires, Wooden Maidens: Image and Prototype in Ming Dynasty Putian county, Fujian. Jennifer Purtle, University of Toronto, will present. 5–6:30 p.m. 2-20 Fine Arts Building.

laurels

Deputy Provost **Dru Marshall** has been named new chair of the Canadian Association for the Advancement of Women and Sport and Physical Activity Board of Directors. A member of the board since 2005, Marshall officially assumed her new duties at CAAWS's Annual General Meeting late November in Ottawa. CAAWS is a national non-profit organization dedicated to creating an equitable sport and physical activity system in which girls and women are actively engaged as participants and leaders.

Timothy Caulfield, research director of the Health Law Institute, received the Till and McCulloch Award from the Stem Cell Network. The award recognizes researchers for their national and international leadership in the field of stem-cell ethics.

"Alberta Construction" magazine has named the **Centennial Centre for Interdisciplinary Sciences** one of the top Alberta institutional construction projects completed in 2010.

Jan. 21 & 22

Campus Sustainability Summit. A campus-wide sustainability brainstorming and networking session is taking place at the University of Alberta's TELUS Centre. This first-ever Campus Sustainability Summit is being spearheaded by the Environmental Coordination Office for Students. There is a \$20 deposit for each participant to reserve their spot (cash only). The money will be returned to attendees, in full, at the end of the summit. Drop your \$20 deposit off at the ECOS Office (SUB 0-30R or 0-30Q) during office hours.

Jan. 22

Mixed Chorus Bears Den 2011. To be held at the Bears Den in Clare Drake Arena. Come out and enjoy a fun evening with fellow Mixed Chorus alumni as the Pandas hockey teams takes on the Calgary Dinos. The cost for this event is \$5 per person and includes pizza and non-alcoholic drinks, a game ticket and parking at Stadium Parkade. For more information go to www.ualberta.ca/alumni/mcaabearsden.

Jan. 23

MACH 4 Bill Street, saxophone, with friends. Arts and Convocation Hall. 3 p.m.

Jan. 24

National Film Board Presentation (in French). "L'affaire Coca-Cola" (85 min.). Un film documentaire sur Coca-Cola et le droit des travailleurs dans les usines d'embouteillage. Un film dédié au courage

des militants et à la justice sociale. Entrée libre. Tirage à la porte 7 p.m. Pavillon McMahon.

Jan. 25

Public Health Colloquium Series. Our colloquium series provides an opportunity for participants to learn from faculty, postdoctoral fellows and PhD students who share their current research. Speaker: Roxanne Felix will present "The burden of refugee transportation loans." Noon–12:50 p.m. Room 3-06 University Terrace.

Jan. 26

Contract for Services. How do you decide whether someone is an independent contractor or employee? What is the procedure for determining a worker's status at the U of A? How do you initiate a contract for services? The Contract for Services workshop, in the Research Administration

Seminar Series, will answer these questions. Please register via <http://rsoregistration.ualberta.ca/CourseDescription.do?courseid=4794>. 9:30–10:30 a.m. 2-117 Clinical Sciences.

Department of Economics Micro Seminar. Marcel Boyer, professor at the Université de Montréal, will give a talk entitled, "Alleviating Coordination Problems and Regulatory Constraints through Financial Risk Management." 3:30 p.m. 8-14 Tory.

Opening Doors, Creating and Inclusive Excellence in the Academy. Malinda Smith, chair of AASUA Equity Committee, and Catherine Anley from the U of A's Employment Equity Advisory, together with the Centre for Teaching and Learning, are hosting a symposium to raise awareness about equity, diversity and mentoring in the academy. 9 a.m.–1 p.m. 271/219 TELUS Centre TELUS Centre.

Jan. 27

Education Research Forum. Decolonizing "Education for All" Policy: Are there possibilities for global social justice. 3:30–4:30 p.m. 107 Education South.

Until Feb. 11

Lines of Flight. Sponsored by the Student Design Association and Visual Arts Students Association. Welcome to territory not yet explored. Join U of A Art and Design students as they creatively investigate liberating escapes from standard visual art forms. These fascinating pieces will lead the viewer in any direction and can also leave behind marks for others to follow. South Foyer Rutherford Library, North and South (Humanities and Social Sciences)

Locating an end point



This piece, titled "End Point" by University of Alberta printmaking professor Sean Caulfield and sculpture professor Royden Mills, is part of an exhibition, *Perceptions of Promise: Biotechnology, Society and Art*, which provides visual artists and biomedical scholars and scientists from Europe, the United States and Canada a chance to contribute to discussions on stem-cell research. The exhibit runs until March 20 at Glenbow Museum in Calgary.



Photos: Michael Kelly | Marketing and Communications, Marketing Services



Warming up with a little

AntiFreeze



The University of Alberta's Students' Union isn't letting the winter blahs take over as classes kick off again. AntiFreeze, an annual favourite, pits teams of 10 against each other in a host of odd competitions, from toboggan races to the Bear Sling 500, which requires competitors to slingshot a stuffed bear or panda across Quad.



the
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